

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the review of the present application. Claim 13 has been amended to improve readability of the claim and to better define that which the Applicant considers the invention. Claims 1-27 are pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,355) in view of Beaudet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,487). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the claimed inventions. Therefore, the cited prior art references individually or in combination fail to raise a prima facie case of obviousness as is required under a section 103 rejection.

Independent claim 1, 17, and 23 include the features of updating a first display area to include one of the plurality of child nodes when one of the plurality of child nodes in the second display area is selected. Independent claim 13 includes the feature of the first display area being configured to be updated in response to a selection of one of the plurality of path choices in the second display area. Applicant respectfully submits that, at the very least, the cited prior art references do not disclose or suggest the claimed features discussed above. With respect to the Palmer reference, the Office indicates that Palmer does not disclose the features of 1, 13, 17, and 23 discussed above (See Page 1 of Office Action) but cites column 2, lines 17-50 of Beaudet and suggests that Beaudet "shows updating said first display area to include said one of said plurality of child nodes". Applicant respectfully traverses this suggestion. Beaudet describes a method for collapsing and expanding nodes and displaying

portions of a graph on a computer display screen. The Office is respectfully directed to column 4, lines 45-60 which state as follows:

A collapse/expand procedure for a general directed graph can be devised as follows. When a node x is to be collapsed, each node that is below x in the current layout (i.e., has a y coordinate that is less than that of x) and can be reached from x by traversing arcs from source to target is removed from the graph. Similarly, when a node x is to be expanded, each node that can be reached from x by traversing arcs from source to target is added to the graph. In addition, a node x can be expanded by n levels by adding to the graph each node that can be reached from x by a path consisting of at most n arcs. FIGS. 7A and 7B show the collapse procedure applied to a graph, which is not a tree. In a left-to-right layout, where the graph is rotated 90 degrees in the counter-clockwise direction, only the nodes to the right of x, those having an x coordinate greater than that of x, are considered for collapsing.

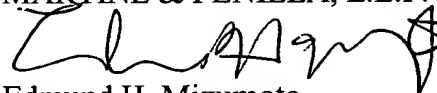
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Beaudet teaches the collapsing and expanding of a node when that node in the same display is selected. Applicant further respectfully submits that Beaudet does not disclose or suggest a selection of one of the child nodes in a second display area resulting in an updating of the hierarchical display of the first display area to show the child node selected. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Beaudet does not disclose or suggest a relationship between a first display region and a second display region where a selection of a node in the second display region can affect the displayed nodes in the first display region. Applicant further submits that Palmer also does not disclose or show the claimed features. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art references do not disclose updating of the first display area to include one of said plurality of child nodes when and one of the plurality of child nodes in the second display area is selected.

Applicant respectfully submits that to support a prima facie showing of section 103 obviousness, the cited prior art references must disclose or suggest all of the features of the claimed inventions. Applicant respectfully submits that Palmer and Beaudet, individually or in combination fail make a prima facie showing of obviousness and therefore the section 103 rejection of the claimed inventions are not supported by the cited prior art references. The

dependent claims are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests that the section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6900 ext. 6927. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP060C).

Respectfully submitted,
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